

Master's students on a mission

A group of 13 Media and Industrial Design postgraduate students volunteered their time during the mid-trimester break to assist in assembling a complex array of electronic microprocessors, sensors, actuators and digitally fabricated components at the City Gallery Wellington, one of the city's key cultural institutions. The three-way collaboration between Toronto based Philip Beesley Architect Inc., the City Gallery Wellington and the School of Design proved to be inspirational for all concerned. Volunteer and Media Design postgraduate student Meredith Crowe observed at the opening event,

“The finished installation is breathtaking. Once we had it all working I would whisper and tiptoe around it; it truly felt alive. Even though I had seen it come together from the start, I was in complete awe of the finished space.”

The internationally acclaimed artist and architect Philip Beesley was brought to Wellington as a keynote speaker at the international conference DeSForM2012: Meaning, Matter, Making, hosted by the School of Design. Vesica, his latest installation in the Hylozoic Series also premiered his work in the Southern Hemisphere for the first time. This project features an ethereal lacework of interactive kinetic systems that demonstrate how buildings in the future might move, smell—even feel and think. Assembling the work was intensive and physically exacting; working to a carefully orchestrated schedule the students had just nine days to assemble and install well over 10,000 components.

The event was an exciting and mutually rewarding collaboration. Philip Beesley was impressed with the

standard of design at Victoria, which he rated of outstanding international quality, while Meredith noted that,

“The experience is completely invaluable to me. One of the most amazing things about it was seeing just how much can be achieved in such a short space of time as long as you have a good team and a great plan.”

The City Gallery Wellington was equally enthusiastic about the installation, reporting that it has enchanted their patrons, many of whom made return visits bringing friends with them to share the experience. The exhibition has also been very popular with schools, including groups doing school based projects on the work.

Read more at: <http://desform2012.schoolofdesign.ac.nz/news/desform-in-the-media/>



(opposite page—top) Alexander Buckman and Meredith Crowe. Image: PBAI

(opposite page—bottom) Sarah Kong and Luke De Villiers. Image: PBAI

(opposite page—right) Tahi Rewiri-Chastecky, Richard Clarkson, James Bennett, Steven Lam and Meredith Crowe. Image: PBAI

(right) “Assembling the work was intensive and physically exacting!” Image: PBAI

